

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAGU 02233 031506 Z

45

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 NIC-01 CU-04 RSR-01 /108 W

----- 096249

R 031500 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1318

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANAGUA 2233

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, NU

SUBJ: CONSTRUCTION WORKERS STRIKE PROGRESS REPORT

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

REF: MANAGUA 2212 AND PREVIOUS

1. 85 PERCENT OF THE CONSTRUCTION WORKERS REPORTED TO THEIR JOBS ON THE MORNING OF MAY 2 ACCORDING TO THE LABOR MIN. THOSE STILL ON STRIKE INCLUDE A DISPROPORTIATELY HIGH NUMBER OF SKILLED CARPENTERS SO 15 PERCENT ABSENTISM CONTINUES TO SLOW CONSTRUCTION ALTHOUGH MOST JOBS SHOW INCREASING SIGNS OF ACTIVITY. DEMAND FOR SKILLED CONSTRUCTION WORKERS IS OUTSTRIPPING SUPPLY AND SEVERAL CONTRACTORS SEEM TO HAVE OVER- EXTENDED THEMSELVES ACCEPTING MORE CONTRACTS THAN THEY CAN REASONABLY EXPECT TO FULFILL, FURTHER CONFUSING ATTEMPTS TO ACCESS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE STRIKE.

2. THERE ARE PERSISTENT RUMORS THAT THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY
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WILL SOON CANCEL THE LAW ESTABLISHING THE SIXTY HOUR STRAIGHT TIME WORK- WEEK WHICH PROVOKED THE INITIAL WALKOUTS. GENERAL SOMOZA HAS TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE HAS INSTRUCTED THE MINISTER OF LABOR TO WITHDRAW THE SIXTY HOUR WORK- WEEK PERMIT FROM ANY CONSTRUCTION COMPANY WHICH SO REQUESTS.

COMMENT: DESPITE EFFORTS OF THE COMMUNIST UNION LEADERSHIP, STUDENTS, AND DISSIDENT POLITICAL GROUPS TO PARLAY THE STRIKE INTO A GENERAL PROTEST MOVEMENT WITH WIDER POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS, A GENERAL FEELING SEEMS TO BE EMERGING THAT THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM IS ENDING AND THAT ONE WAY OR ANOTHER THE WORKERS ARE LIKELY TO GAIN A REVERSION TO THE 48 HOUR WEEK.
SHELTON

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SAN SALVADOR
SECSTATE WASHDC
TEGUCIGALPA
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